12/2/70

Dear Harold,

With a few minutes to myself before bed, I can respond to your very warm and much appreciated letter of the 27th.

The address stickers are enclosed, as well as various news items, some awful, including things on Garrison's book.

Needless to say, I was overjoyed at the invite to your place sometime over the holiday. We have three weeks off, Dec. 21 to Jan. 15, and I'm sure I could make it down sometime during that period, whenever best for you, of course. To be perfectly honest with you, I have lately been longly to get down there--both to see and talk with you and Lil and to be out in the country. The city with its offensive noises and odors is immensely depressing. No human being should have to live in it. I have a great passion for the country atmosphere.

Your words and advice vis-a-vis my feelings of frustration and despair are encouraging. I have found in the past that talking with has provided great perspective and encouragement. I look forward to talking again, in person.

You are so right in your advice about the need for female companionship. But this is something I know from much experience. While I am admittedly shy (and I think this is lessening progressively), I have never had any barriors toward girls. My involvement with them began before I can remeber, and progressed generally more ahead of people my own age.

Your reflections on Mary bring to mind a girl which I once loved and points out the differences between our generations. From this girl more than any others I ever knew did I learn of the many and deep comforts of a woman, and the rewards of a close relationship.

But I did lay her.

Right now I do long for female companionship, for as of late it has struck me that I have become close with no girls here. I have developed some very good relationships with boys here, which of course is only partially fulfilling and in a different way. But I am learning much about <u>human</u> relationships which I did not or <u>would</u> not learn before. We can talk about this.

If I recall correctly, the last time I was there you mentioned having two very good stereo speakers which were too large to be used by you, and that you wanted to get rid of them. A very close friend of mine here has an excellent system but

no speakers. He's been having trouble finding some, for he would like to buy them used. If you still have yours and they are in line with what he has in mind, he will gladly pay you for them. So, when you get a chance--if possible before Dec. 18--please tell me what kind of speakers you have, the size, and what you would like for them.

I better go now. While I have a father who I love and respect dearly, I look upon you as a father, also.

Best,

Howard